

MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

State Capitol, Room 152

July 24, 2009

Draft Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Montana Public Defender Commission was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Committee Chair Tara Veazey.

Commissioners Present

Caroline Fleming, Miles City, Mike Sherwood, Missoula; Tara Veazey, Helena; Stephen Nardi, Kalispell; Jennifer Hensley, Butte; Kenneth Olson, Great Falls; and Richard (Fritz) Gillespie, Helena

Other Interested Parties

Randi Hood, Chief Public Defender; Harry Freebourn, Administrative Director; Pat Gervais, Legislative Fiscal Division; Scott Crichton, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU); and Judge Sheldon Singer, representing the American University evaluation team

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 9, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Examples of Past Responsibilities

Prior to legislative sessions, the Committee has worked with staff on bills the Commission would like to put forward. The staff also updates the Committee on other legislation that might affect the agency.

Legislative Issues (exhibit L-1)

Chief Hood and Mr. Freebourn will attend the August 3 Law and Justice Interim Committee meeting to give an overview on the agency. It was suggested that a commission member attend to answer questions regarding the AU draft report, and that the report be viewed with an eye toward possible legislative changes needed to implement the recommendations.

Commissioner Sherwood asked to put a discussion of legislative issues on a future Commission agenda. He asked the Legislative Committee to put a proposal for that discussion together at their next meeting, looking at the Commission's limits of authority and how it relates to the Governor's directive regarding legislation.

New Laws/Changes to Laws (exhibit L-2)

This is a text version of the training that was delivered by videoconference to staff and contract attorneys.

Legislative Fiscal Division Budget Report (exhibit L-3)

This is a summary of the LFD report, and a link to the entire report is available on the web. Ms. Gervais said that this is a post-session report that documents what happened during the session.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Old Business/New Business (*Action Items)

None.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.